

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Previously amended] A method for providing procurement
2 services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 establishing in a computer database a user profile for
5 each person authorized by a customer company to access
6 said procurement services;

7 associating each said company with a company group of
8 related companies;

9 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
10 company and company group;

11 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
12 among said users a resource profile in a computer
13 database specifying for each resource those said
14 companies to have access to said procurement resource;
15 and

16 responsive to said user profile and said resource
17 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
18 resources.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of providing said procurement resources in a front-
3 end catalog and requisition server.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 receiving a user request from a first client browser to
4 log in to said front-end server;

5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource
8 profiles.

1 4. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from
9 each said company group.

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 4, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific
5 contract for goods or services.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 7. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including a vendor catalog.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including a blanket order procurement contract for
3 goods or services.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including a user profile table.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including costs centers.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement
2 resources including accounting general ledger codes with
3 company group specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 12. [Original] System for providing procurement services
2 to a plurality of customer companies, comprising:

3 a front end server;

4 a user profile for each person authorized by a customer
5 company to access said procurement services;

6 each said company associated with a company group of
7 related companies;

8 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
9 company and company group;

10 a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among
11 said users;

12 a resource profile for each said procurement resource
13 specifying those said companies to have access to said
14 procurement resource; and

15 said user profile and said resource profiles for
16 controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1 13. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement
2 resources further comprising:

3 vendor catalog;

4 a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
5 services; and

6 a table of user profiles.

1 14. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement
2 resources further comprising:

3 costs centers; and

4 accounting general ledger codes with company group
5 specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 15. [Original] A program storage device readable by a
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 providing procurement services to a plurality of customer
5 companies, said method steps comprising:

6 establishing a user profile for each person authorized

7 by a customer company to access said procurement
8 services;

9 associating each said company with a company group of
10 related companies;

11 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
12 company and company group;

13 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
14 among said users a resource profile specifying for each
15 resource those said companies to have access to said
16 procurement resource; and

17 responsive to said user profile and said resource
18 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
19 resources.

1 16. [Original] The program storage device of claim 15,
2 said method steps further comprising providing said
3 procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition
4 server.

1 17. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a user request from a first client browser to
4 log in to said front-end server;

5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource
8 profiles.

1 18. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from
9 each said company group.

1 19. [Original] The program storage device of claim 18,said
2 method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific
5 contract for goods or services.

1 20. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including a blanket order
3 procurement contract for goods or services.

1 23. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including a user profile table.

1 24. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including costs centers.

1 25. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,
2 said procurement resources including accounting general
3 ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules
4 and defaults.

1 26. [Original] A computer program product or computer
2 program element for providing procurement services to a
3 plurality of customer companies according to method steps
4 comprising:

5 establishing a user profile for each person authorized
6 by a customer company to access said procurement
7 services;

8 associating each said company with a company group of

9 related companies;

10 said user profile specifying for each said user a user

11 company and company group;

12 providing for each procurement resource to be shared

13 among said users a resource profile specifying for each

14 resource those said companies to have access to said

15 procurement resource; and

16 responsive to said user profile and said resource

17 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

18 resources.